

## Sappers receive overdue recognition

### Sapper tab approved after 20-year effort

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Soldiers of Giessen's 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division's Engineer Brigade and Baumholder's 40th Engineer Battalion are among the first Soldiers in Europe to receive the new Sapper tab for combat engineers.

The tab identifies Soldiers who graduated from the Engineer School Sapper Leadership Course in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker approved the tab last June which is retroactive to the first graduates of the school in 1985.

"You are the first ones in Europe to wear it, so be proud of it," said Division Engineer Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Ioakimo Falaniko during an award ceremony in February to present the tab to 30 engineers. Falaniko, a recipient of the award, worked at the school as an instructor.

Together with Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, then deputy commanding general and assistant commandant of the U.S. Army

Engineer Center and School at Fort Leonard Wood, he was involved in the 20-year effort to obtain approval for the tab and helped design the award.

"The tab does not mean that you are better than anybody else but that you went to that course. I hold every position and title in that course so I know all about it," he said.

"It's a special recognition that's been long overdue. We know why it has been created because of the special skills in our MOS," said Col. Lou Marich, Division Engineer Brigade commander.

"I've heard the Sapper school being called Ranger school because it's not an easy course. A lot don't make it — only the best, and a few are here in Germany. I cannot call myself a Sapper because I did not attend the class, but you can and I am proud to be your commander and to present you the tab. Wear it proudly and talk it up to others," Marich said.

Designed to train combat engineers in leadership skills, combat engineering and infantry battle drills the 28-day class prepares and qualifies Sappers for the fight on the modern battlefield. Divided into two phases, each lasting 14 days, Soldiers learn and are tested in general subjects such as land navigation and air and water operations. During the second phase participants conduct a mix of engineer and infantry missions including bridge reconnaissance, patrolling techniques and battle drills emphasizing leadership, reconnaissance, raid and ambush tactics, and rucksack runs.

"It's nice to be finally recognized. It's been long overdue, and finally we have something to show. I will wear the tab with pride," said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Brown, Division Engineer detachment sergeant.

Brown was a private first class when he took the course in 1987. Five years later, upon returning from Desert Storm he attended the course a second time because his entire unit went, he said.

He also attended jungle school in Panama and mountaineer instructor school in Alaska.

"The Sapper Leader Course deals with every skill an engineer needs to know. It's one of the best schools the Army has," said Brown.

"Nothing is easy there and people fail. To me one of the hardest tasks, actually the hardest in the entire Army, was land navigation because the terrain is so gully. The 12-mile rucksack marches are tough too. Everybody can do them on flat ground but when you have to go up and down through those hills it's not easy," Brown said.

"In the past 10-15 years I've heard so many graduates talk about how hard the school was. You used to get a certificate, but now we have something to show for it, and I will wear it with pride," said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Hill, operations noncommissioned officer for Division Engineers. Hill attended the class in 1990 as a sergeant when Falaniko was an instructor at the school. "The school was a good experience. They crammed so much knowledge into your head, so much information at once while you move through



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Col. Lou Marich (left), 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade commander, pins the new Sapper tab on Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Hughes from Company B, 16th Engineer Battalion, as Lt. Col. Mark Coats, 40th Engineer Battalion commander, looks on. The tab recognizes combat engineers who graduated from the Sapper Leadership Course.

the different phases that I thought I wouldn't remember any of that. And here I am 14 years later still using those skills they taught me back then.

"The school was even harder when I attended the course," he said, recalling how he felt after 24-48 hours of sleep and food deprivation, going into the woods to perform the given tasks and then having to kill a chicken or rabbit to have something to eat. "There is a method behind it, because even if you might have thought you cannot do it, suddenly you

are able to kill your food.

"There were four Rangers [in the course] who said they couldn't believe the course was so tough," said Hill. "They went through the training and all four of them failed. Another two guys missed the 700 points you need to graduate by two points. They were not given a chance to make up for it — it's pretty tough.

"It's a great school and if I could I would send everybody. Though some are just not cut out for it," Hill added.

## Classes

### Parenting class

Army Community Service hosts parenting classes in Giessen, Butzbach and Friedberg upon request. Individuals and group settings are available. Topics include communication, motivation, discipline and sibling rivalry. For more information call Kris Cervantes at mil 343-7421. A mother/infant support group meets in Butzbach weekly. For information and to sign up call Yvette Joshua at civ (06033) 925 329.

### Children's movie day

ACS hosts a children's movie day every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building

3 on the Giessen Depot. The program includes a short movie, snack and fun crafts designed for children under age 5. To register call mil 343-7618.

### Fun in the kitchen

Want to learn new recipes from around the world and new ways of cooking from different cultures while making new friends? Join the Butzbach Outreach Center staff March 14 from 10 a.m. to noon for the fun in the kitchen class. For more information call Yvette Joshua at civ (06033) 925 329.

### Computer classes

Computer Basics classes are held every Tuesday from 2-

## Classes

4:30 p.m. at Giessen ACS. Advance sign-up is required to save a space. Call mil 343-7618.

### Interpersonal communication

An interpersonal communication class will be held March 14 from 12:30-2 p.m. in Friedberg and March 30 from 12:30-2 p.m. in Giessen. For details call Kris Cervantes at mil 343-7421.

### Stress, anger management

Stress and Anger management classes are held in Giessen, Friedberg, Butzbach and Bad Nauheim. Call mil 343-7618 or 324-3465 for the schedule.



## Soldier fights his way to the top

**Alexandra Williams**  
284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office

Passion is the fuel that fires success.

For Pfc. Aleator Tavares from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor, that fuel may take him to the top of the Army boxing ranks.

The 20-year-old Soldier is not only an aspiring all-Army boxer, he also shares his passion and knowledge with nine other Friedberg-based boxers as a mentor and coach.

Tavares started boxing at age 13. "I was in school and I had a job. There was no time for sports like football and basketball. Those activities always take place right after school, but I had to work then. One day I met a boxing coach who worked his schedule around my obligations," he said.

When he joined the Army last year boxing was not involved in his future plans, he said. "I stopped boxing at 16, and I thought I would never box again," Tavares said.

His arrival in Friedberg in January last year brought the sport back into his life.

"Everybody was deployed to Iraq, and I was so bored. I had no car, there was nothing to do and it was so cold. To be honest — at that time I started to hate the Army. I didn't join to sit around and wait for my battalion to redeploy. I wanted to do Soldier's work and stay busy," he said.

A friend convinced him to come to the gym when the boxers had their daily training.

"I jumped on the speed bag and just hit it. The coach saw me, the new guy, who hit the ball like crazy. He asked me if I boxed before and that he would like for me to be on the team. That's how it got started again."

Tavares had his first fight one and a half weeks later in Wiesbaden and it started a series of victories for him including the U.S. Army Europe championship.

### Responsibilities

As much as he enjoys the sport he said he understands the responsibility that comes with it.

"Boxing is fun and the point is not to get hurt. We are Soldiers and the Army does not want us to get injured. Safety has priority, and that's what I always tell the other boxers. Don't get stirred up by the cheers of the crowd when they want to see someone get knocked out. Stay safe, show your skills and fight fair. They judge you on points and not who hits the hardest. There is



Photo by Karl Weisel

**Pfc. Aleator Tavares (left) trades blows with Giebelstadt's Ian Jackson in their heavyweight bout in Hanau Feb. 12. Tavares won after the referee stopped the contest halfway through the second round. His long term goal is to be selected for the all-Army boxing team and later to become a professional boxer.**

more to it than what the crowd often expects," he said.

"I don't drink because I don't know how I react. Do I start to fight? Do I fall out? What if I am stupid enough to start fighting five guys at the same time? I don't need that. I don't even tell others that I box because it draws attention to me," Tavares said.

"I think a boxer is able to take a lot more verbal abuse from people. We are not quicker to fight — actually we have to control ourselves more otherwise we mess up our careers since our hands are considered weapons. If I lost control and got involved in a fight I would be judged as if I attacked someone with a stick in my hand," he said.

Though luck has been on his side he is prepared for possible defeats.

"Everyone eventually loses

once. George Foreman and Muhammad Ali also have lost. You need to lose or you get too cocky," he said.

### First defeat

His first defeat was a drastic experience, he said. "I was undefeated for eight fights and then came the day I fought Alein Lopez. It was Aug. 28, a day I'll never forget. Everyone told me that I was all-Army material and I was ready for the fight, but Lopez had a style that never came on before. He threw uppercuts and hooks at me that all I could do was to keep my hands up and have a good defense otherwise I would have been hit by his punches. The crowd loved the fight because we were hitting each other. All I knew was that I did not want to get hit like that again and that I wanted to fight him again and leave the ring as the winner," Tavares

said.

The chance for revenge came in January when both met in the ring again in Stuttgart and this time Tavares was prepared and won.

"When I beat him it felt so good. Lopez was disappointed. When he beat me I told him 'good job' but when he lost he said 'we are 1-1 and I am going to train harder to win the next fight,'" he said.

The boxers met again Feb. 29 in Baumholder and again Tavares was victorious.

While the sport may appear like pure physical work there is much more to it, Tavares said.

"I am always thinking during a fight. 'What's the crowd thinking?' 'What is the other guy about to do?' 'What did coach tell me?'"

"A minute can get very long when you are taking punches. It looks easy when you are watching,

but it's strenuous, and those punches are painful," Tavares said.

### Many advantages

Boxing has many advantages for him, he said. "I have the second best PT scores in the company — I'm at 327. I am in a good condition because I am always running and training, I jump up the stairs," said Tavares. "Of course there are days when you just hate it. You smoked yourself, got up early and kept pushing yourself, but usually it doesn't last long because in the end I know it'll pay off."

"I was never good at anything, and it's the first time in my life that I am having success. I enjoy what I am doing and I am winning trophies. I like trophies," he said.

Tavares has a clear vision about his plans for the future. "I wanted to go from novice to open as fast as possible and I did. I expect to go to the U.S. Army championship. It's a real big thing. Then I will go to Iraq with my battalion and when I come back I hope to go to the all-Army boxing team. My long-term goal is to eventually go pro," he said.

### Raw talent

That Tavares will make it to the top is something his former coach Renardo Reed of the 284th Base Support Battalion believes in.

"Tavares is a natural, raw talent. He is a confident young man bristling with energy and ambition," he said.

"When I first met him I only saw a few small things that needed to be corrected. He worked right at the gate with me. He has respect and desire and passion and that's what it takes. He has probably one of the biggest hearts, and he truly wants to achieve something. He was with me at the gym when nobody else was there; he never missed training," he said.

"He understands the basic principles of boxing, he has a photographic memory, and very good hand eye coordination. His fast twitch muscle memory is very good, he truly has untapped potential. He understands that in boxing there are fights to be waged and won even before one steps into the ring," Reed said. "He has learned that to be successful comes sacrifice. ... He works on these things daily as if he has a fight the following day. He is always ready to test his skills, always getting ready physically and mentally. Tavares is someone who I can surely say is someone to look out for in the future given the opportunity to show his skills."

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlights

### Upcoming trips

Outdoor Recreation hosts an overnight trip to **Garmisch** March 12. Cost is \$139 for adults, \$89 for children age 4-13 and \$49 for children up to 3. A **sightseeing trip to Cologne** is scheduled for March 12. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$20 for children age 4-13 and \$10 for children up to 3. A trip to the **Dachau concentration camp and the BMW museum** is planned for March 19. The cost is \$49 for adults, \$39 for children age 4-13 and \$19 for children up to 3. A **Rothenburg sightseeing trip** will be hosted March 26. The cost is \$26 for adults, \$20 for children age 4-13 and \$10 for children up to 3. For details call mil 343-8202.

### Volunteer coaches sought

Volunteer coaches are needed for Youth Services baseball. A coach's clinic will be held March 24 at 5 p.m. at the Giessen YS gym. Coaches may register their first child free and the second child for half price. For more information call CLEOS at mil 343-7028.

### YS baseball registration

Youth Services baseball registration is open until March 18. The fee is \$30 for the first child and \$27 for each additional child. The season opens April 9 at 9 a.m. at the Giessen Chapel Field. Parents may register their child Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the CLEOS office located in Building 3, Room 215 or at the cheerleading award ceremony March

12 at 9 a.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. For details call mil 343-7028.

### Scholastic book fair

Giessen Elementary School hosts a scholastic book fair March 1-3 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Over 275 titles and over 900 books will be available for purchase, cash and checks will be accepted. The fair is open to all ID card holders.

### Chili cook-off

Friedberg Army Community Service sponsors a chili cook-off March 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the staff for free chili, beverages and dessert. All fixings such as cheese, tortillas and onions will be provided. For details call mil 324-3465.

### FCC providers sought

Do you enjoy working with children? Want to make money while working at home? Family Child Care providers are sought for all communities throughout the 284th Base Support Battalion. For more information call mil 343-7626.

### ACAP workshops

The Army Career and Alumni Program hosts a **job search workshop** March 1-2 in Friedberg. A mandatory **pre-separation briefing** is scheduled for March 9 in Giessen and a **Veterans Affairs Benefits Briefing** will be hosted March 10 in Giessen. Soldiers within one year of their ETS may sign up for the

briefing. For more information on ACAP services call Claire Sowinski at mil 343-9332.

### POSH online

Prevention Of Sexual Harrassment training is now available online at <http://training.newmedialerning.com/psh/usarmy/index.htm>.

### AFTB classes

Army Family Team Building level III training will be conducted March 7-9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the AFTB training center in Butzbach. AFTB instructor training will be held March 21-23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Butzbach training center. To register for the free training call Giessen Army Community Service at mil 343-7618 or Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465.

### Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for all housing areas in the 284th Base Support Battalion is scheduled for March 4. Trash should be placed outside next to the containers the evening before the pickup date. For more information call mil 343-7161.

### DA photos in Giessen

Appointments for Department of the Army, passport and chain of command photos are available at the Giessen Training Support Center Visual Information Office in Building 12 on the Giessen Depot. Passport photos are provided for official passports

only. Clients should first go to the Passport Office for the appropriate work order (3903). Then call mil 343-6122 to arrange an appointment. Official photos are taken free of charge and can be taken within a few minutes.

### Plaque shop open

The plaque shop at Friedberg Arts and Crafts makes small, medium and large size plaques to order. Production time is roughly 10 working days. Prices vary. The shop is open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For details call mil 343-3266.

### Recycle cleaning products

Both Self-Help Stores in Giessen and Friedberg accept partially used household cleaning products and reissue them for free to other housing residents. When you move bring your cleaning items to the Self-Help Store rather than throwing them in the garbage (it's illegal and bad for the environment).

### Outprocessing briefing

A community outprocessing briefing will be held March 8 at 10 a.m. in Building 4 on the Giessen Depot. Spouses are encouraged to attend this mandatory briefing.

### Free counselling

The Army Source free counseling line is available 24 hours a day at civ (0800) 4648 1077. The toll-free service puts callers directly in touch with professional counselors.



Photo by Karl Weisel

### Cheerleading competition

Galaxy cheerleaders sign autographs for young fans during last year's cheerleading competition held at Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center. The 284th Base Support Battalion's Child and Youth Services will host the U.S. Forces Junior Cheerleading Competition March 19 starting at 11 a.m. at Miller Hall. The Frankfurt Galaxy Cheerleaders will dance, judge the competition and give away football tickets. For information call Gregory Peck at mil 343-6969.



## Delegates vote on top AFAP issues

By Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Soldiers, civilians and family members got together at the Woodland Convention Center in Giessen Feb. 15-16 to participate in this year's 284th Base Support Battalion's Army Family Action Plan Conference.

They addressed more than 150 issues.

"We decided to expand the conference to two days this year, giving delegates more time to discuss quality issues and to hold the conference during school hours," said Melody Sexton, 284th BSB AFAP coordinator.

Conferences held in previous years resulted in improved playground equipment and new bleachers. Some issues included the equitable death benefit issue to improve spouse benefits in case of the death of a Soldier—an issue currently being discussed and looked into at the Department of the Army level.

Another topic raised during last year's conference and currently handled at the 104th Area Support Group level is to be able to allow accrued leave in access of 90 days instead of the 60-day policy currently in place. Other local issues are being discussed at the Installation Management Agency-Europe and U.S. Army Europe level.

"I believe in the AFAP process and see

the emphasis commanders have throughout the process of improving quality of life for Soldiers and families," Sexton said.

"The AFAP Conference is a channel used to let people in the community know that their concerns about things that need to be changed, improved or enhanced, will be heard. It is a better way of doing business. Many people feel they do not have a voice and cannot make a difference. AFAP gives them that chance of being able to make a difference in their local community as well as the military life in general," said Monica Battle, 284th BSB Army Community Service director.

"Everyone has a voice, there is no rank, no status, only voices to improve quality of life throughout the military community," she said.

Two Giessen High School students brought the top three issues that were discussed during an internal school AFAP meeting to the working groups. During the school conference each grade was represented by three students.

"The conference is a useful tool in getting things done in the community," said senior Timothy Hill.

"We feel that we can make a difference," Latisa Stanley, another senior said.

Craig Birchard, 284th BSB deputy commander, thanked the delegates on behalf of



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Kathy Monge (right) of Army Community Service assists Giessen High School students during this year's AFAP Conference at the school. The separate AFAP meeting at the school gave students a chance to vote on their top concerns.

Lt. Col. Bart Shreve, 284th BSB commander, for their hard work.

"What you provided is important to the BSB. We are aware of some of the problems and will try to improve some of the issues and

come up with solutions here locally," he said.

To find out about this year's top issues and at what level they will be addressed see future *Herald Unions* or visit the 284th BSB website at [www.giessen.army.mil](http://www.giessen.army.mil).

## SGO changes names, improves services

### Program ensures same services Army-wide

By Alexandra Williams  
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Army installations, their directorates and offices will change their names in the coming months. In a few cases responsibilities will be transferred from one office to another.

Changes are made under the Standard Garrison Organization, a program being implemented throughout the Army, said Jane Wingate, director of the 284th Base Support Battalion Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

The reason for it is to ensure customers will be able to find the same services on every Army installation whether they are in Germany or Korea, said Wingate.

### Civilianizing garrisons

"It's also a first move toward civilianizing all garrison slots with the exception of the commanders and the command sergeants major," she said.

Personnel changes might be involved in the SGO but they will not result in termination of employment. "People might be shifted and jobs will be redefined," Wingate said. "The focus is on consistency and continuity in the services provided."

"The SGO includes the good from

old structures when we had the military communities added to a few new ones and refined," she said.

Most apparent will be the re-naming of installations. In the near future the BSB will be called tailored garrison while the 104th Area Support Group in Hanau, which is merging with the 414th BSB, will be the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen, Wingate said.

After completion of the reorganization the names may have changed, but customers will still find the same high quality services at the following directorates," she said.

### Garrison Management and Control offices:

➤ The Garrison Management and Control Offices include the Resource Management Office, the Directorate of Plans, Analysis and Integration as well as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment and the administrative staff. Functions and size of HHD depends on the size of the garrison.

### Directorate of Emergency Services

➤ The Provost Marshal's Office will be renamed to Directorate of Emergency Services and is divided into two sections — the Police/Provost Marshal's Office and the Fire Protection/Prevention Office.

While the PM office is responsible for all police services to include physical security, customs, traffic and the MP desk, the Fire Prevention/Protection Office controls all duties of the fire department as well as hazardous material teams and medical emergency teams.

➤ The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security office, former S2/3 section, oversees plans and operations, training and security intelligence. Services include mobilization contingency, emergency operations, military schools, training and simulations, and security awareness.

### Support Services consists of:

➤ The Installation Support Of-

fices include the Public Affairs Office and the Religious Support Office. PAO serves as a liaison between tenant organizations, garrison and the community and provides media support to include the community newspaper while the RSO is responsible for all religious activities.

### Directorate of MWR

➤ The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation oversees the Non-Appropriated Funds Resource Management Office, Child and Youth Services, the Recreation Office, the Business Office as well as the Army Community Service offices.

➤ The Directorate of Logistics is in charge of logistics plans and operations, supply and services, maintenance and the transportation office.

### Directorate of Public Works

➤ The Directorate of Public Works oversees the operation and (facility) maintenance, environmental offices, housing, engineering and master planning.

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[www.giessen.army.mil](http://www.giessen.army.mil)

# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Community notes . . . Community notes

### 'Bring on the baby' class

A free three-day course for expectant parents focusing on labor and delivery education, relaxation tips, newborn care and breastfeeding information will be conducted April 6, 13 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wolfgang Outreach Center, Building 514, at the Wolfgang Shopping Center. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Call mil 322-8965 or civ (06181) 88-8965 to reserve your slot.

### Acting workshop

A free acting workshop by Carol Gutierrez will be held March 21-22 at 7 p.m. at the Five Pfennig Playhouse, Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne. Minimum age to participate is 14. Sign up at the Five Pfennig Playhouse or email [5pfennig@104asg.mwr.army.mil](mailto:5pfennig@104asg.mwr.army.mil).

### Veterans Affairs briefings

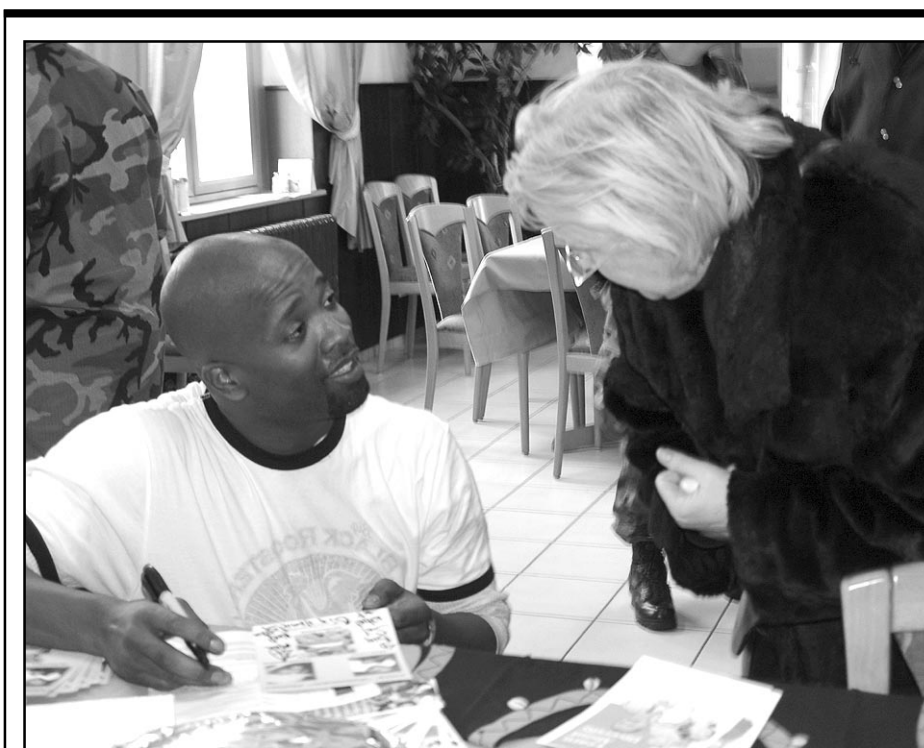
Veterans Affairs briefings will be held March 8, 29 and April 26 from 9-11.30 a.m. at the Education Center, Building 11, Room 302 on Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne. All veterans and retirees are welcome. Contact ACAP at mil 322-8356 or civ (06181) 88-8356.

### Protestant Women of the Chapel speaker

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will welcome Chaplain (Maj.) David Cooper speaking about "Taking Every Thought Captive" March 3 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Hanau's Pioneer Chapel. A soup and salad lunch and watch care for children age 5 and under will also be featured. For more information call Robin Longworth at civ (06181) 575 775 or Cheena Nyhus at (06183) 919 984.

### Monthly Praise Fest

The Fliegerhorst Contemporary Service hosts a community praise fest March 13, April 3 and May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Fliegerhorst Chapel on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The monthly praise fest is an inter-denominational event that features contemporary style Christian music. Child watch care is provided for children up to age 3. For information call Chaplain (Maj.) Arley Longworth at mil 322-9609 or civ



### Black History speaker

Cory "Zooman" Miller signs an autograph for Gabriele Oergel at Hutier's Touch of Home Cafe Dining Facility Feb. 15 during a Black History Month event. Miller, a comedian, actor, rapper and poet, spoke to Hanau-area Soldiers during the 16th Corps Support Group-sponsored event and also performed at Club i on Fliegerhorst Kaserne Feb. 19 as a member of the "Almost Famous Urban Comedy Tour." "I don't take freedom for granted," said Miller, explaining that some people in the United States don't appreciate the sacrifices performed by Soldiers and their families overseas. "I know how to make people feel good with my comedy. I try to bring them some jokes — give them a chance to kick back and take off some steam. When I'm performing I don't see Soldiers out there, I see people, and I can relate to them."

Photo by Karl Weisel

(06181)88-9609.

### Spouses Club scholarships

The Hanau Community Spouses Club offers scholarships to graduating high school students with a 2.5 grade point average or higher and family members of military ID card holders stationed in the 414th Base Support Battalion and enrolled in an accredited college or university. Applications may be picked up at the Pioneer Library, Hanau High School Guidance Counselors Office, Army Community Service or the Hanau and Büdingen Education Centers. Deadline to submit applications is April 18. For information email Carolyn Saul-Piper at [carolyn.saulpiper@us.army.mil](mailto:carolyn.saulpiper@us.army.mil).

### DoDEA survey

The Department of Defense Education Activity customer satisfaction survey gives sponsors, students and teachers an opportunity to comment on their level of satisfaction with service provided by DoD schools.

Take a few minutes to fill out the survey online at [https://hq-w4.dodea.edu/cust\\_survey](https://hq-w4.dodea.edu/cust_survey).

### AFTB update

Army Family Team Building offers Level III training March 7-9. Level III Soldier Track training will be held March 14-18. Call mil 322-5308 or civ (06181) 88-5308 for more information.

### Information Center open evenings at middle school

Hanau Middle School invites parents, students and community members to use the school's Information Center every Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Use the Internet for research, check your school email, complete homework assignments, discuss and check out great books. Call Anne Marie Avegno at civ (06181) 906 9725 for information.

### Ed Center notes

All Soldiers are now eligible to use the eArmyU education resource, either through the e-course option or the laptop option. Call an education counselor at mil 322-9600 for information. Pell Grant eligibility and awards have been reduced. Go to [http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/2004\\_2005/english/types.htm](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/2004_2005/english/types.htm) for details. The Pioneer Education Center's computer lab is available Monday through Thursday from 1-9 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. FAST classes will be held March 7-28. Call mil 322-9600 for details.

### Achievement Badge recipient

Capt. Erica Iverson of the 130th Engineer Brigade received the German Achievement Badge from Command Sgt. Maj. Ernie Lehre of the Reservisten-kameradschaft at Hanau's Pioneer Kaserne Feb. 15. Iverson earned the badge by completing a 25-kilometer march with pack, a three-kilometer run, a 100-meter run and a 200-meter swim. She also had to qualify in the long jump, shot put and shooting events, plus take a first aid course. (130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Release)



### Hanau Tax Center open

The Tax Center in the basement of Building 2 on Pioneer Kaserne offers free tax filing and electronic filing for all authorized ID card holders. The Tax Center will stay open until June 15 with hours of operation Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clients are seen on a walk-in basis. Soldiers should come ready with W-2s, 1099s, Social Security numbers and direct-deposit information. If married couples are filing their taxes jointly, both spouses must be present to sign the return or present a valid power of attorney. Call the Tax Center at mil 322-9577 with any questions.



Photo by Marie DeLopez

### MWR information at the commissary

Commissary patron Deborah Holloway watches as commissary bagger Eusebio Rostata inserts an MWR flyer in her shopping bag. Be sure to check your commissary bags after shopping at the Hanau Commissary to find out what's going on in the Morale Welfare and Recreation arena in your local community.

## Special events ... Special events

### Start the month with brunch

The American Star Restaurant in the Community Activity Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne features lunch every first Sunday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.95 for adults, \$7 for children age 5-9 and free for children age 4 and under. For

reservations call civ (06183) 51-7206.

### St. Patty's Day Party

Club i in the Community Activity Center features a St. Patrick's Day Party March 17 starting at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy Irish stew, Irish beverages and the sounds of the Q2 Band. Call civ (06183) 51-7206.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Volunteering offers 'professional job experience'

### Dedicated individual efforts enhance quality of life for all

By Karl Weisel  
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

It takes an army of volunteers. "In a military community that has to be self-sustaining and self-sufficient, volunteers are the reason many programs exist," said Kristi Kolthoff, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator. "Scouting programs, a vibrant theater and other activities occur thanks to the efforts of volunteers. Volunteers make our quality of life better."

"The goal of the Army Volunteer Corps is to create a professional environment where we can match volunteers with a professional job experience," she said. "We also provide training so that it is a rewarding and educational experience."

And volunteering is certainly not a one-sided affair, Kolthoff said. "There are benefits for volunteers — a sense of accomplishment, belonging to the community and having diverse experiences to put on their resumes. Through volunteering you learn about what's going on in the community. You meet people and hence friendships are formed. Often times training opportunities are offered to volunteers that otherwise may not be at their disposal. Being involved always trumps staying home and waiting for someone to find you."

"Knowledge is power," said Kolthoff, explaining that as a Red Cross volunteer she greatly added to her job skills, knowledge and abilities. "One by-product of a positive volunteer experience is a sense of self worth. Not only is this good

for the individual, but it enhances the value of the community."

"Volunteers are the backbone of many of our community services," said Amy Cuebas, Deployment and Mobilization Program manager at Army Community Service. Cuebas was praising the many roles volunteers play throughout a military community to help keep everything from youth activities to sports programs, chapel activities to Family Readiness Groups flourishing. "Volunteers are especially important during this time when funding is so critical. They also provide a direct contribution to deployment readiness."

"I'm happy to do this because I'm contributing," said ACS volunteer Yolanda Swift, Deployment and Mobilization Program assistant. "It gives me a chance to get out of the house and to share my skills and talents."

"She helps me keep my sanity," said Cuebas, explaining that Swift's military and rear detachment experience make her a vital part of ACS's deployment readiness programming.

"The spirit of volunteering is especially alive and well during deployments," said Kolthoff. Family members involved in schools, FRGs and the many other organizations throughout the community share their experiences with and find support from others going through similar circumstances.

During National Volunteer Recognition Week in April, military communities celebrate the many contributions of volunteers with recognition ceremonies, gifts and special events. Volunteers regis-



Photo by Karl Weisel

Amy Ellin Cuebas (right), Deployment and Mobilization Program manager, and volunteer Yolanda Swift, Deployment and Mobilization assistant, work on deployment issues at Hanau Army Community Service.

tered with the Army Volunteer Corps are recognized for the hours and services they contribute. "I think there are a number of folks out there who are involved in many organizations who are just there to pitch in," said the volunteer coordinator, adding that anyone who has volunteered for at least an hour or more in the past year should register if he or she wishes to be invited to the ceremony and recognized.

Currently volunteers are particularly needed for several positions throughout the 414th Base Support Battalion including serving as mentors at Hanau High School, Hanau Middle School and Gelnhausen Elementary School; mailroom clerks at the Community

Mail Rooms; and as volunteer coordinators for Hanau Middle School, Sportfield Elementary School and Old Argonner Elementary School.

"We desperately need volunteer coordinators and mentors in the schools. The schools are looking for mentors to be role models for students — to spend an hour a week with a young person," Kolthoff said. "I see this as the best way for green suiters and young people to interact in our schools. Soldiers don't realize that they are heroes in the eyes of the students."

Other volunteer opportunities include working at the Thrift Shop, as health and safety instructors for the Red Cross, coaching youth

sports, leading Scouts, teaching Army Family Team Building, helping on- or off-stage at the Hanau Five Pfennig Theater, staffing the USO or reading stories to youngsters at the library.

Volunteer organizations can once again compete for a chance to win financial support through the "Newman's Own" award program which is sponsored by Newman's Own, Fisher House and the Military Times Media Group. Volunteer organization leaders should document the ways in which they help improve the quality of life for military families and communities and submit their entries in the Newman's Own Award competition. Visit the Fisher House website at [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org) and click on "Newman's Own Award" for more information and the application form.

"I try to pair volunteers with positions to help them realize a dream, make a career change or a chance to gain more experience in a desired field," said Kolthoff. If you are interested in getting more involved in your community, want to meet others and expand your horizons by volunteering call the Army Volunteer Corps coordinator at mil 322-9524, civ (06181) 88-9524 or stop by her office at ACS, Building 19, Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau.

### ACS Grand Opening

Hanau Army Community Service holds a Grand Opening in its new facilities in Building 19 on Pioneer Kaserne March 10 from 1-3 p.m. Enjoy free refreshments and meet the staff.

### New Büdingen Computer Lab

Pfc. Mike Richardson of HHC, 1-1st Cavalry, and fellow Soldiers check out the new Learning Resource Center and Computer Lab in Building 2209 on Büdingen's Armstrong Barracks. The lab features Internet connectivity providing users with a host of educational opportunities including online classes through eArmyU. "We also now have three classrooms instead of two," said Byron Johnston, Büdingen education services specialist. The lab features six computers with Internet connection but will soon have nine functioning machines. "This opens up a larger avenue for us to provide services," said Johnston, thanking Sgt. Derek Dickerson, Pfc. Israel Bond and Staff Sgt. Michael Cass of the Cavalry S-6 section for their help in setting up the lab. The Computer Lab hours are Monday and Wednesday from 4-7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. "They are purely flexible," said Johnston, "and will be adjusted as we determine demand for their use."

Photo by Karl Weisel





## MPs play vital role in Iraqi elections

### Working closely with Iraqi counterparts

**Commentary by 1st Lt. Amy Clements**  
127th Military Police Company executive officer

On Jan. 30 the Iraqi people displayed their commitment to a democratic future by flooding to election sites en masse. They faced direct threats, brutal intimidation and deadly attacks on the polling stations, but despite these factors the Iraqi people voted in droves, thereby rebuking the so-called “experts” who claimed coalition and Iraqi security forces were not making progress in Iraq and that a lack of security would preclude an effective election.

The 127th Military Police Company, “Speed and Power,” based out of Hanau, Darmstadt and Baumholder, reached another major milestone in their year-long deployment as they assisted with the first free elections in Iraq’s several thousand year history. Speed and Power soldiers helped safeguard the Iraqi voters by committing millions of dollars to vastly improve the force protection at every Iraqi Police station and by teaching and mentoring the Iraqi Police to become skilled fighters adept at defeating any insurgent threat. The 127th Military Police Company actively assisted in the force protection assessment and improvements of polling sites, facilitated communications with the maneuver units and the Iraqi security forces assisting in area security of northwest Baghdad. Speed and Power soldiers showed a different face to the enemy as the company occupied six Iraqi Police stations for eight days during the elections and embedded with the Iraqi Police.

Demonstrating a true unity of effort toward safeguarding the election, Iraqi security forces comprised of the Iraqi Police, the Iraqi National Guard and the Iraqi Army combined efforts to form one unified Iraqi security front. This joint endeavor of thousands of Iraqis secured over 400 election sites in Baghdad alone. Speed and Power Soldiers occupied and defended the Iraqi Police stations to free up the Iraqi Security Forces to occupy and secure polling sites across Baghdad. For several days the Iraqi Security Forces boldly repelled assaults against insurgent attackers, were attacked by numerous drive-by shootings, and properly coordinated the removal of several bombs insurgents placed in front of schools.

At 6 p.m. on Jan. 29 coalition forces and their Iraqi counterparts completed a Herculean task—they completely shut down all civilian traffic in Baghdad. They then enforced a strict curfew



Photo by Spc. Kenneth Beecroft

**Members of the 127th MP Company's 1st Platoon “Roughnecks” stop to assist a wounded Iraqi policeman. Spc. Brandi Noe used her combat lifesaver skills to stabilize the casualty for evacuation.**

to further protect Iraqi citizens. As the sun rose on election day, the day that would bring democracy to Iraq, few citizens were seen walking the dusty streets of the capital city. However as daylight grew so did the crowds of Iraqis making their way toward the polling sites. Soon the few became many and even shepherds marched from outside of the city with their herds of sheep to the election sites, leaving their sheep outside, voted, and then proudly herded their flocks back out of Baghdad’s north gate to resume their daily activities.

Men, dressed in their traditional dress or suits, and women wearing the traditional black birkas proudly waved at the Speed and Power Soldiers, showing their ink-stained fingers. The stained fingers became a symbol of freedom and democracy worldwide. Despite the insurgent threat to kill anyone with an ink-stained finger, the Iraqi People proudly displayed the proof that they helped to create a democracy in the country once ruthlessly controlled by a deranged dictator. When midday approached, reports of suicide bombers attacking polling sites began to blaze across the radio. Despite explosions in the distance, Iraqi citizens continued

to pour toward their neighborhood election centers.

One maneuver battalion commander was on location at an election site that had been attacked and reported that despite the suicide attack, Iraqi citizens were continuing to come to vote. Several citizens had been seen hitting the dead suicide bomber in the head with their shoes, one of the greatest insults in the Iraqi culture.

That afternoon children and grown men began celebrating their newfound freedom and played soccer in the streets and on highways. Curfew resumed again at sundown, but there was excitement in the air as the Iraqi Police returned to their police stations after they collected the ballot boxes.

The Iraqi Police performed exceptionally throughout the elections. One Iraqi policeman in Baghdad paid the ultimate price for freedom while manning his post at an election site, successfully thwarting a suicide bomber attack on a polling site.

The Speed and Power Soldiers will not forget how their efforts supported this monumental event in the history of Iraq by helping those who stood up against terrorism and for freedom and democracy.



Photos by Dennis Johnson

### Streamers and tabs

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Buxbaum, 130th Engineer Brigade, awards Sgt. 1st Class David Ball with the new Sapper tab during a ceremony Feb. 14. Photo left: Col. Thomas W. Kula, 130th Engineer Brigade commander, attaches a safety streamer to the HHD, 565th Engineer Battalion, colors Feb. 11.



## Touch of Home strives for Connelly

### Best 3rd COSCOM small dining facility

Story and photos by Karl Weisel

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

People who eat regularly at Hutier Kaserne's Touch of Home Cafe Dining Facility already know it ranks among the Army's best. As the recipients of the Philip A. Connelly Award for best small dining facility in 2002 and this year's 3rd Corps Support Command level award, diners can be assured the staff is doing everything they can to keep up the facility's reputation. It is currently in the running for the 104th Area Support Group level award and a chance to compete at the Installation Management Agency-Europe level.

"We went downrange after winning it in 2002 so we weren't able to compete last year," said Sgt. Juan Sanchez, dining facility manager. "We're changing the menus a little bit and doing up new cards so that people can see exactly how many calories each item has."

"We've got quite a few new Soldiers," said Sanchez. "Having new staff takes more time to get them up to Hutier standards, but they're doing well."

Anywhere from 140 to 170 people eat at the Touch of Home which serves three meals a day, five days a week. "Our comment cards praise the good customer service," said



Hutier Touch of Home Cafe staff serve Sgt. Alma Romero, 69th Chemical Company, lunch Feb. 17 as judges from the 104th Area Support Group spend the day at the facility monitoring procedures.

Sanchez, adding that Soldiers from throughout the 16th Corps Support Group who make up an advisory counsel, "say this is the best dining facility in the Army. They like the variety of food, the self-service, the short order items and the movies we show. ... People come from all over including Babenhausen and Büdingen to eat here."

"Winning the Philip A. Connelly award is doing things right 365 days

a year," said Manuel Gomes, food program manager for the 104th Area Support Group's Directorate of Logistics and one of the judges in the ASG level contest. Judges look for "the presentation and the quality of the meal the Soldiers get ... how well prepared it is and the sanitation conditions."

"We check to see if they are following procedures, if they are doing it right everyday. If you get

used to doing what's right it becomes a habit," said Gomes. "Philip A. Connelly is about doing things right everyday not just on the day of the inspection."

"We're not here to let appearance overshadow the quality," said fellow judge Robert Lester, also a food program manager with the 104th ASG's DOL. "Attention to detail is the key."

"This is part of recognizing the



Pvt. 2 Amanda Deacon fills the dessert display at Hutier's Touch of Home Cafe Dining Facility.

Soldiers for the work they do," said Lester, explaining that the judges will choose one large and one small dining facility to advance to the IMA-E level competition. "We're also visiting the 4th Brigade JFK Dining Facility on Fliegerhorst Kaserne and the 2nd Brigade Dining Facility in Baumholder."

"This means a lot to the staff of the Touch of Home Cafe because they have worked real hard," said Sgt. Maj. Andrea Farmer, 3rd COSCOM food service sergeant major. "It's rewarding."

"Because of the name — Touch of Home — Soldiers get personal customer service at this facility. I think they are going to go all the way to the Department of the Army level," Farmer said.

### 1-1st Cavalry trains in Grafenwöhr

## Master gunners rule world when it comes to gunnery

By Sgt. Christopher Stanis  
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Master gunners are the experts for two of the Army's premier heavy combat weapons systems of today — the Abrams tank and

Bradley fighting vehicle.

A master gunner needs to know everything about his machine and its arsenal, according to Sgt. 1st Class Charles Elam, an M1A1 tank master gunner for 1st Armored

Division's 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment from Büdingen.

A master gunner is an asset Army-wide, but where he really earns his paycheck is tank and Bradley gunnery, the annual field exercise where Soldiers qualify Bradley and tank weapons systems.

"This is the master gunner's world," said Elam. "The commander is responsible for what happens at gunnery, but the master gunners are responsible for executing it."

Master gunners train crews on their vehicle's capabilities, especially if the Soldiers are new and have never been through gunnery.

"That's what it's all about," said Elam, "watching a crew go from being brand new to qualifying the first time. Knowing you twisted and molded them to get to that point, nothing else matters to me."

Elam said master gunners are technical advisers on the training field, but they are also an integral part of the battlefield.

"They advise the commander on what the vehicles are capable of doing and what the

enemy's capabilities are against you," Elam said.

With a responsibility like that, Elam said being a master gunner "is a zero defect job."

While almost every school in the Army requires a 70 percent grade point average to pass, students at the Master Gunner course must maintain a 90 percent proficiency, Elam said.

Generally there are two types of master gunners, according to Elam, a master gunner since 1998. Bradley master gunners are usually infantrymen or cavalrymen and their training takes place at Fort Benning, Ga. Tank master gunners attend courses at Fort Knox, Ky.

The three-month courses train Soldiers on a variety of subjects such as creating gunnery plans, training crews and the capabilities of the vehicles.

To enroll in the course Soldiers must be at least staff sergeants and prove they have knowledge of the tank or Bradley, said Elam.

"The school is a lot of grueling exams," he said. "It's a great job, but you have to have the heart to want it."



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis

An M1A1 Abrams tank from Bandit Troop, 1-1st Cavalry, fires a round from its 120mm main gun during 1-1st Cavalry's biannual Tank Table XII Gunnery in Grafenwöhr.